

THE LATE
PLOT
ON THE
FLEET
DETECTED,
WITH THE
JACOBITE MEMORIAL
TO THE
FRENCH KING:

AND AN

Account of those Gentlemen, who Invited the French Fleet
to invade our English Coasts, &c.

Printed at *London*, and Re-printed at *Edinburgh*, *And Dover*, 1690

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THE
MEMORIAL



TO THE
FRENCH KING

AND

Account of those Gentlemen, who in the Year 1793
of London & Co. 1793

Printed in London by J. Johnson, in Pall Mall

The late PLOT on the Fleet Detected: with the Jacobites Memorial to the French King, &c.

TO see the *French* (in a manner) Masters at Sea, and the *English* Glory, for the present, thus sunk in the Eyes of Christendom by a Complication of Disasters, has been the occasion of great Enquiry into the Source and Cause of so important Events. If any are so Ignorant as not to know by what means the *French* of late came to have so much Shipping (who, but in the days of Queen *Elizabeth*, durst not put a Ship on the Stocks without leave from *England*) let him peruse *Andrew Marvel's Growth of Popery*, and the Secret History of the Two late Reigns, and he may be sufficiently informed. The design of this Paper is to Characterize, briefly, the Persons that Invited the *French* Fleet into the *English* Channel: The King and Queen being no sooner settled in the Throne than the Spirit of Mutinizing began to exercise itself on a sort of Gentlemen, who had made so great a noise in the World, with their Doctrines of *Jure Divino* and Passive Obedience; tho' to any body, but those that are willfully Ignorant, the Inviting and Assisting His Majesty against the late King, before the Crown was conferred upon him, was a greater Invasion of their darling Principles, than the Swearing to him, and justly Obeying him, after He is declared and acknowledged King by the Parliament.

The first step of Contrivance, this part of the Clergy made, was the writing against the taking the new Oaths to their Majesties, enjoyn'd them by Act of Parliament; and the buzzing into the Ears of their poor Votaries, the Unlawfulness of these Oaths, and the continuing Right of King *James* to the Crown: This piece of their Artillery, it was thought would have done some considerable Execution: But alas! many of the Gentlemen themselves who had been to perswade others to Refuse the Oaths, they could so little digest the loss of their Livings, as they chose rather to take these unlawful Oaths (as they call'd them) than to expose themselves to the least Suffering.

The next step of the Plot was, to Cheat the World and their own Consciences with a ridiculous and foolish distinction of taking the Oaths to a King *de facto*, but not *de jure*. The design of this distinction was, first to save their own Conscience, and to vindicate themselves from the Reproaches of their Comrades, who had absolutely refused to take the Oaths. And secondly, To bear it upon the Minds of the People, That their Majesties were not lawful and rightful King and Queen of *England*, but *de facto*, only, that is, in plain English, down-right Usurpers.

This distinction did not only give them scope to take the Oaths to their Majesties, but also to Pray for them by Name in their Pulpits. But many of more Sincerity than the rest, would not Pray for them by Name at all; and yet, to prevent any trouble from the Law, they wisely prayed in general terms for the King and Queen. Here was a pretty way of playing fast and loose with God Almighty, he might take it in what sense he pleased.

These steps of the Plot were to be back'd with another Engine of theirs; and that was the publishing to the World the History of *Passive Obedience*; altho' most of the Citations of this Pamphlet, be far wide of the Question, and refer only to *Obedience to Magistracy* in general, and the unlawfulness of private Persons their rising up against the Government upon every frivolous Pretext. The next and greatest Engine of their Plot, is the happy result of a kind of Oeconomick Council of the whole Party: The Liturgy of the Church of *England* must be laid aside, and a new one must be Calculated for the Meridian of King *James's* Tottering Fortune; and the greatest wonder of all is, That the Council which publish'd this new Liturgy, did not utter it in with, *It seems good to the Holy Ghost, and to us.*

In this new Liturgy they insinuate to the World, That in effect, we're without King, without Priest, and without God in the World. A dreadful Doom before a terrible Tribunal! None are indeed, at this rate, within the compass of the Church, but this *Jacobite Club* and their followers. But let us hear the very words of this part of the Liturgy: *Restore us again, say they, the publick Worship of thy Name, the reverend Administration of thy Sacraments; raise up the former Government both in Church and State, that we may be no longer without King, without Priest, and without God in the World.* They

They afterwards proceed to pray for the Prosperity of the Arms of King James, and the French King, against their Majesties and Government;

But now I come to the main points of this Noble Contrivance. His Majesty from a Noble and Boundless Courage, will needs venture His Person once more for the safety of these Kingdoms.

The King being gone; Admiral *Kilgrew* being in the *Streights*; and Sir *Claudefly Shovel* in *St. George's Channel*, and the *Holland Squadron* not yet joyn'd ours, nor ours fully met; than was the time for our Plotters to put their long thought-on design in Execution. In order to which, at one of their *General Meetings* in *London*, where it was necessary some of the Clergy should be present to Bless to Pious a Work; It was concluded to give in a Memorial in the Name of the *Loyal and Distressed Subjects* of England, (for so they named themselves) to his Most Christian Majesty; Humbly Inviting him out of his extraordinary Goodness, and for the Affection he always bore to oppressed Vassals, That he would assist them in restoring Their lawful King, His Ancient Ally and Confederat, to his Throne; and in breaking the Yoke of Usurpation, under which these Three Nations were at this time so heavily Groaning. But it will be absolutely fit here to insert the very Words of their Memorial it self, as it has been discovered by a certain person of late, and as it was express'd in the *French Temple*, in which it was Originally written and given in.

The MEMORIAL is thus:

To the Most Gracious, and Most Invincible Prince, Lewis the great, his Most Christian Majesty; The Memorial of the Loyal and Distressed Noblemen, Clergy, Gentlemen, and others of all Ranks within the Kingdoms of England, Scotland and Ireland, at present under the Power of a Cruel Usurper.

Great and Invincible Monarch,

The Resplendent Rays of Your Majesties Virtues, have render'd all the World your Admirers: And that inherent Goodness of which Your Majesty stands so transcendently posses'd, does render You the only Sanctuary of all the Distress'd. It is in the confidence which this Your Unparalleled goodness gives us; That we in all humble Duty presume to lay our rights at Your Majesties feet: And that we implore your Royal Favour and Assistance, to rid us of the great and insupportable Afflictions we lye under at present.

It is in your Royal Arms and Banery we repose our Hope and Confidence; and expect to see our Lawful King, Your Ancient Friend and Ally, restor'd to the rightful Throne of his Ancestors, out of which wicked Men have thrust him. And because this is the most proper time for your

Majesty

Majesty to assist us with the assured expectation of success, we have presum'd to lay before you the present favourable Circumstances, that do concur to make your Majesty's glorious Enterprise the more feasible; which are principally these.

1. The Prince of *Orange*, the Usurper, is just now on his Journey to *Tyland*; and being once arriv'd in that Kingdom, if a part of Your Majesty's Fleet were able to block up, or *Orange's* Channel, the Usurper's Army would certainly be starv'd, being all their provisions come by Sea from *Scotland* and *England*. And that part of the Country they are Masters of, is already haras'd and ruin'd by both the Armies, both the last Year and This.

2. The Usurper had partly sent before, and partly taken along with himself, the whole, *Swiss*, and the better Disciplin'd part of the Army; And leaves behind him but a very few of the English Regiments, who serve him more out of necessity and fear, than out of any love to him, or the Interest.

3. The forces he leaves behind are so very few, That they are scarce capable to keep Guard in the Tower, the *Savoy*, *Somerfet House*, and at *White-Hall* all together. And the three Regiments that are sent for out of *Holland*, will not be yet ready for some weeks to *England*. In the meantime, if it should be thought they will stir, for want of pay, I know both *English* and *Scotch* men are so entirely Devoured to the Usurper's Interest, the most of them being in the service of our Lawful King, before he was necessitated to leave us.

4. Most of our Fleet are at so great distance one from another, that they cannot this present make any considerable Body. There being the best and ablest Seamen and Ships with *Killegrew* in the *Streights*, and with *Shewell* in *St. George's Channel*, amounting together to more than sixteen Ships of War.

5. There are likewise employed for convoys and about the *Western Coast* of *Scotland* to the number of five or six Ships, all separately.

6. The Dutch Squadron is no appearance to be here to join our vessels; both because they are not yet in a readiness, and that this Squadron of *English* and *Scotch* men is already discontinued to serve under our *English* Admiral. Moreover, tho' they were join'd to, they will but make up at the most but twenty sail of Ships; and then none of the best, considering their *Tullins* and best main'd Ships are out upon *Conquest*.

Our own Fleet is all mann'd, and the *Scotch* men and *Seamen* extremely discontented for want of their pay, and several of the Officers were those that belonged to our King before he went away.

There are Five more Articles in this Memorial, that for certain Reasons I will not Copy out; only I'll tell the Reader, they are of a piece with the rest, and full as ill. Here are some Truths, but a great many more Lyes; and such as none but People of their gang could be capable of. And if the Reader's Curiosity tempt him to be very inquisitive how this Memorial came to light; let him wait but a little and perhaps he will see both it, and the *Deliverers* and *Contrivers* of it made publick enough.

The *French* King giving ear to the Representations and Importunities of these Gentlemen, put all his wit on the rack to get Money to equip the greatest Fleet that ever that Nation set to Sea; and at a vast charge he brought the *Toulon Squadron* round the whole Continent of *Spain*, and through the *Streights*, to joyn his *Brest* Fleet. He left not behind one Seaman that could be found in *France*, and scarce one Ship more of any Force in all his Harbours. Upon the notice given him

1693
sent by his trusty Pensioners here, he directs this *French Armado* straight for the Isle of *Wight*, where our Fleet was to Rendezvous; and if it had but Arrived there some few days before it came, we had not had Twenty Ships together at that place: Yet so near were we to Ruine, that albeit our Fleet was become by that time pretty strong, and the most of the Ships arriv'd; yet if Heaven had not turned the Wind in a Moment, they had every one of them, in all probability, been Burn'd at Anchor. The *French Fleet* passed in sight of *Weymouth*; the Mayor of that place did very wisely dispatch two Expresses, one to the Queen, and another for my Lord *Torrington*, the Admiral: But the wind blowing a fair Fresh Gale, the *French Fleet* had certainly been amidst ours, before the *Weymouth* Express could possibly reach *Weymouth*; if the Wind had continued but some hours longer. Our Fleet being in this imminent, and almost inevitable hazard; and the *French* being within a few Leagues of them, the Wind in an instant turn'd about, and put a stop to this design'd and easie Victory, by obliging them to lye by.

This happy Providence concern'd all the Plots of our Enemies both at Home and Abroad; and we had time given us to prevent the Destruction that threatned us. And to compleat the Mercy, a fell out, that at the very precise time this hapned, there was a full Discovery made by some Persons here, who had been concerned in the Plot all along, of their whole Affairs and Transactions both with France and at Home.

I am very inclinable to believe; that all the Officers and Seamen of the Fleet have been Proof against the Insinuations of our *Plotters*; and that they have not yielded to the Temptations of *French Gold*; tho' at the same time, I do not doubt, they have been assaulted with both. And if so, the wonder is the greater, if it be true, that is talk'd so freely up and down, that a great many of the Officers have bought their Places with Money. It's hard to beleive that there are any such practices in *England*; as the buying and selling Places, especially those in the Fleet, upon which depend both the Safety and Glory of *England*. But if any such thing be, then the Retreat we have been forc'd to make, will certainly open the eyes of our Governors, to see the mighty and almost irrecoverable prejudices, that attend such slavish Methods of

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getting Commands; and will put them upon employing fit Persons, in
whose Fidelity and Valour we may safely trust.

Our Murmurers, and Plotters were strangely elevated with the ex-
pectation of its Success. In their sound Imaginations King James was
already at *White-Hall*; and some of them were publickly in Coffee-
Houses acting the part of a Herald, in Marhalling his Triumphant
entry into London. And the ordinary subject of their discourse was, the
Greatness and Magnanimity of the French King; the number and force
of his Fleet, the weakness of ours; and sometimes a *defect of his Ma-*
jesties forces in Ireland, to keep them in heart. Their impudence was
 arriv'd at that height, that in open exchange, one of the long Robe was
pleased to say with relation to the *Hollanders* loss in the late Engage-
ment at Sea, That they were well payed off for the Present they had
sent us twenty Months ago.

But that none of that Party may want the due praise their Writings
deserve, I'll give the Reader a Dedication made by one of them, (and
him of the long Robe too) to the French King not many months since,
when the Plot was just upon the wheel, and which for the boldness
of the stile I must commend, tho' the matter of it be down right Blas-
phemy. *To the Immortality and Eternity of the Name and Divinity*
of Lewis the Great, Emperor of France, Victorious, Happy, Merciful,
Almighty, Angelic; in acknowledgement of his Royal goodness and bene-
volence towards the afflicted Princes of Dauphin. These verses written in
English, are in name of the British Isles most humbly consecrated by, &c.
Thus we see how far an *English Jacobine* can carry a French Poet
himself, in the art of *Blasphemy, Flattery*.

But how soon are all these kind of Peoples hopes laid in the dust,
upon arrival of the news of His Majesties Glorious Victory in *Ire-*
land? And how far has it counterpois'd the joy they had some days
ago, for the Action between the two Fleets? A little time will show,
that notwithstanding of all they have done to Ruin him, no Body will
be more forward than they to fawn upon his Majesties good Fortune;
whenever once they are quite out of the hopes of King James's retriev-
ing his; But sure the Government will be wiser, than ever to dart any
of his warm Beams upon such kind of Creatures, any farther than to let
them live the Scorn of all Honest Men, and the Hatred of every one
that loves their Country and their Religion.

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